

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A treatment element for the accommodation of dental hand instruments, comprising a base module, a coupling bar which defines a row of couplings for the supply of media to the instruments and which is attached to an underside of said base module so that said couplings face downwardly or forwardly of said base module ~~having connectors for the supply of media to the instruments,~~ first and second top modules interchangeably positionable on the base module, and instrument holders, said first top module including a flat receptacle and an instrument holder therefor ~~defines~~ defining docking bays so that hoses which are connected at first ends to ~~extend from said connectors to said instruments~~ couplings when facing downwardly will hang beneath said base module when the instruments at second ends of the hoses are positioned in said docking bays, and said second top module includes swivel arm hose supports and an instrument panel therefor defines troughs~~[[,]]~~ so that hoses which are connected at first ends extend forwardly from said connectors to said instruments being movable couplings when facing forwardly and then upwardly and over said swivel arm hose supports by said swivel arms overabove said base module when the instruments at second ends of the hoses are positioned in said troughs.

2. (Previously Presented) A treatment element as defined in claim 1, wherein each said first and second top modules can be releasably connected to said base module by hand.

3. (Canceled).

4. (Previously Presented) A treatment element as defined in claim 1, wherein at least said first top module includes a control panel.

5. (Currently Amended) A treatment element as defined in claim 1, wherein said flat receptable portion ~~of said first top module and said instrument holder and the associated instrument holder of said first top module~~ are separate components.

6.-10. (Canceled).

11. (Previously Presented) A treatment element as defined in claim 1, including an instrument removal detector which can be converted from a state for the detection of instruments having hanging instrument hoses to a state for the detection of instruments having swivel-arm hose supports.

12. (Previously Presented) A treatment element as defined in claim 11, wherein said instrument removal detector can be displaced from said base module to said top module.

13. (Previously Presented) A treatment element as defined in claim 11, wherein a single instrument removal detector is provided on the base module for use with said first and second top modules.

14. (Currently Amended) A treatment element as defined in claim 1, wherein said first top module has a frame member and an insert ~~which is designed according to the type of apparatus required.~~

15. (Currently Amended) A treatment element for the accommodation of dental hand instruments, comprising a base module having connectors for the supply of media to the instruments, ~~furthermore comprising a plurality of top modules including an instrument holders, wherein said top module is modules being interchangeable and so that the treatment element can, by changing the top module, be converted from a type of apparatus having hanging instrument hoses into a whip-arm hose support type of apparatus, wherein connectors are disposed and a coupling bar mounted on the an underside of the base module, wherein said connectors can be shifted said coupling bar including couplings for instrument hoses, said coupling bar being changeably mounted to the base module~~ from a position for the attachment of a hanging instrument hose to a position for the attachment of a hose from in front.

16. (Currently Amended) A treatment element as defined in claim 15, wherein said top modules can be releasably connected to said base module by hand.

17. (Currently Amended) A treatment element as defined in claim 15, wherein one of said top modules is equipped with a control panel.

18. (Currently Amended) A treatment element as defined in claim 15, wherein one of said top modules is equipped with an instrument holder.

19. (Currently Amended) A treatment element as defined in claim ~~15~~
18, wherein said top module and said instrument holder ~~are adapted for~~
~~the accommodation of~~ accommodate instruments having hanging
instrument hoses.

20. (Previously Presented) A treatment element as defined in claim 19, wherein said top module has a flat receptacle and the instrument holder has docking bays for holding instruments.

21. (Currently Amended) A treatment element as defined in claim 15, wherein said top module and said instrument holder ~~are adapted to guide~~
the instrument hoses over the treatment element.

22. (Currently Amended) A treatment element as defined in claim 21, wherein on the top module there are mounted swivel arms or whip arms
and ~~that~~ the instrument holder has troughs for the accommodation of the
instruments.

23. (Previously Presented) A treatment element as defined in claim 15, including an instrument removal detector which can be converted from a state for the detection of instruments having hanging instrument hoses to

a state for the detection of instruments having swivel-arm or whip-arm hose supports.

24. (Previously Presented) A treatment element as defined in claim 23, wherein said instrument removal detector can be displaced from said base module to said top module.

25. (Previously Presented) A treatment element as defined in claim 23, wherein a single instrument removal detector is provided on the base module for use with both types of apparatus.

26. (Currently Amended) A treatment element as defined in claim 15, wherein said top module has a frame member and an insert ~~which insert is designed according to the type of apparatus required.~~